

Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 7:30 pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room

**Attendance:** First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Selectman Samantha Nestor, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene and Weston Residents.

This meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on Channel 79 and on our Town of Weston website.

- 1- **Call to Order** – First Selectman Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
- 2- **Pledge of Allegiance** – led by Karen Tatarka.
- 3- Selectman Grozinger moved to add the following item to tonight's agenda: **"Discussion/decision regarding the Commercial Single Use Plastic Bag Ordinance."** Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried.
- 4- **Discussion/decision regarding the Commercial Single Use Plastic Bag Ordinance** - First Selectman Spaulding first expressed that the town is at a big disadvantage in terms of having news spread since we lost the Weston Forum. He further explained that communicating with residents has been a challenge, noting that many people were not informed about the plastic bag ordinance. First Selectman Spaulding also explained the purpose of the 10 cent charge for paper bags is meant to not only help the vendor with the cost of the paper bags, but to also incentivize residents to not rely on paper and to switch to reusable plastic bags. He shared a plan to send out a mailer and make a digital media push out background information about the ordinance. Selectmen discussed the potential removal or delay of the 10 cent fee. Mr. Luiz said Peter's Market owner, Ms. Karen McGee, came in to speak with First Selectman Spaulding to ask about either removing the 10 cent fee or delaying the fee to give people time to adjust and prepare by buying reusable bags. Selectman Grozinger still opposes this ordinance and states that paper bags are still bad for the environment; however he does agree with the end goal of encouraging people to purchase reusable plastic bags. Selectman Nestor reconfirmed that this ordinance was done collaboratively with the Selectmen, Sustainability Committee and with residents at a public meeting. Mark Harper asked if there was a town meeting held to approve the ordinance. Mr. Luiz replied stating there was a public hearing prior to the Selectmen voting to adopt the ordinance. He also said the Sustainability Committee did approach Peter's Market during the creation of this ordinance. Selectman Nestor agreed that single use paper and single use plastic are both bad, and the goal is to transition people to use the reusable bags. She feels we should discourage paper bags, but wave the 10 cents for now to give the community time to get ready to participate. Mrs. Karen McGee spoke, stating that Peter's Market supports the plastic bag ban and the use of reusable bags, but doesn't want to lose customers over a 10 cent fee. NO MOTION

- 5- First Selectman Spaulding asked for a motion to add to the agenda the following item  
**“Discussion/decision about the Town Clerk position converting from elected to appointed.”**  
Selectman Grozinger made the motion to add the items to the agenda, Selectman Nestor seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- 6- **Discussion/decision about the Town Clerk position converting from elected to appointed.**  
First Selectman Spaulding explained that several people, including Selectman Grozinger, brought a different interpretation of the charter to his attention. The interpretation is that a petition would be required in order for this question to trigger a machine ballot vote. First Selectman Spaulding explained that under this different interpretation there would now be no need for the May 9<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting or the machine ballot vote on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Nestor moved to cancel the May 9, 2019 Special Town Meeting for the purpose of considering and discussing whether the Town Clerk should be an appointed position, and to cancel the May 18<sup>th</sup> machine ballot vote on the question of whether the Town Clerk should be an appointed position.  
Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7- **Discussion/decision to hire Nicole Mitchell as part-time Children’s Library Assistant**  
Selectman Grozinger moved to hire Nicole Mitchell as part time Children’s Library Assistant effective April 8, 2019. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8- **Discussion/decision to appoint Eric Shrago as a regular member on the Sustainability Committee for a term to end December 31, 2020 –** Selectman Nestor moved to appoint Eric Shrago as a regular member on the Sustainability Committee for a term to end December 31, 2020. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9- **Discussion/decision to appoint Sonia Skindrud as an Alternate member on the Sustainability Committee for a term to end December 31, 2020** Selectman Grozinger moved to appoint Sonia Skindrud as an alternate member on the Sustainability Committee for a term to end December 31, 2020. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10- **Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Susan Moch as Moderator and Woody Bliss as Alternate Moderator for the May 9<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting** Agenda item canceled
- 11- **Discussion/decision to accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Dana and Steven Spencer Charitable Fund for the benefit of the Weston Police Department –** Selectman Nestor moved to accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Dana and Steven Spencer Charitable Fund for the benefit of the Weston Police Department. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12- **Discussion/decision to accept a donation of a 2010 Chevrolet pick-up truck equipment with emergency lights from the Aquarian Water Company for the benefit of the Weston Police Department –** Selectman Grozinger moved to accept a donation of a 2010 Chevrolet pick-up

truck equipment with emergency lights from the Aquarian Water Company for the benefit of the Weston Police Department. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 13- **Discussion/decision to authorize the First Selectman to sign a preliminary application with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to participate in the Federal Local Bridge Program for a superstructure replacement of the Bridge on Michael's Way** First Selectman Spaulding stated the bridge on Michael's Way is safe for use according to an engineering firm hired by the town to perform more detailed analysis, but it does need to have its superstructure replaced in the near future. He cited a recent report from the Connecticut DOT that gave the bridge a poor rating in some categories. He said that our Town Engineer, John Conte, also expressed concerns about the bridge and is in favor of replacing its superstructure. First Selectman Spaulding explained the bridge is eligible for the federal local bridge program, where 80% of repairs would be covered. Mr. Luiz stated this would not be a total replacement, just a replacement of the superstructure. Selectman Nestor moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign a preliminary application with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to participate in the Federal Local Bridge Program for a superstructure replacement of the Bridge on Michael's Way. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 14- **Minutes Approval: BOS Minutes of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019** - Selectman Grozinger moved to approve the unapproved minutes of the March 21, 2019 Board of Selectman meeting. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 15- **Executive Session to discuss strategy negotiation strategy concerning collective bargaining agreements AND to discuss a potential real estate purchase** Selectman Grozinger moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:24pm to discuss negotiation strategy concerning collective bargaining agreements AND to discuss a potential real estate purchase. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 9:20 pm.

- 16- **Discussion/decision to ratify a collective bargaining agreement with the Weston Town Dispatchers United Public Service Employees Union** – agenda item canceled

- 17- **Adjournment** - Selectman Grozinger moved to adjourn and Selectman Nestor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:21 pm.

Minutes submitted by:  
Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

**Approved: April 25, 2019**